In the Drawings

FIG. 2 of the drawings is amended to be consistent with the amendments to the specification. A new drawing sheet for FIG. 2 is provided. The changes to the original FIG. 2 are shown thereon circled in red for the Examiner's convenience.

REMARKS

In the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct obvious errors and typos. In particular, in several locations, the phrase "maximum attenuation A_{MAX}" has been changed to "minimum attenuation A_{MIN}" where it is obvious that this latter phrase is, technically speaking, the correct one. Note that the specification on page 5, lines 16-22, introduces variable attenuator 40 having a range of possible attenuations, including a "no attenuation or substantially no attenuation setting, which is referred to later on page 7, lines 15-16 as the "minimum attenuation A_{MIN}." Thus, both extreme attenuator settings A_{MAX} and A_{MIN} are identified in the specification, along with select attenuator settings A_i therebetween.

On page 7 in the second and fourth paragraphs, the acts 204 and 214 identified in FIG. 2 involve measuring "high fixed power" optical pulses with a conventional optical power meter 70 introduced into the system, as opposed to using the single-photon detectors that are present when the QKD system is connected up and running normally. As someone skilled in the art would immediately recognize, in order for the discussion on page 7 to be self-consistent, this calls for using a *minimum* attenuation setting A_{MIN}, not the *maximum* attenuation setting A_{MAX} in 204 and 214.

The arguments set forth in the Office Action Response of May 09, 2005, for the parent application that resulted in a Notice of Allowance for that application are unaffected by this correction, and no new matter has been added. The example embodiments of the invention still call for setting the VOA to a set value A_{MIN} in acts 204 and 214 to achieve the high-power optical pulses. In fact, the corrected application will be in better condition for allowance since the proposed amendments serve to improve the explanation of the invention.

In the Drawings

FIG. 2 has been amended so that acts 204 and 214 in the flow diagram are consistent with the amended specification and claims.

In the Claims

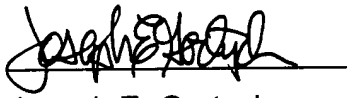
Only two claims have been amended for the reasons discussed above. Claim 1 has been amended to change "maximum" to "minimum" in line 7 of the claim. Likewise, claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the second optical pulses are sent through the VOA as set to a minimum attenuation.

CONCLUSION

Acceptance of the amendments to the abstract, specification, drawing and claims set forth above are respectfully requested, and a prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance with respect to all of the pending claims is therefore kindly requested.

The examiner is encouraged to contact the Assignee's authorized representative at 941-378-2744 to discuss any questions that may arise in connection with this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: August 8, 2005 By: 

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